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A

Further Account

O F

ABBE MANN'S

CASE AND PERFECT CURE

O F T H E

G O U T *.

By PHILIP THICKNESSE.

W I T H

EXTRACTS of LETTERS from Sir JOHN
DUNTZE, Bart. who is under the same
Course of Medicine.

* The ABBÉ's extraordinary CASE and CURE,
written by himself, may be had at DEBRETT's,
and all the Booksellers in London, with a
Translation.

L O N D O N :

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Further Account

CASE AND EFFECT, CURR

By the Court: *John C. Williams*

Extraneous letters from St. John
The letter from the mother and the

Price ONE SHILLING AND SIXPENCE

A

Further ACCOUNT, &c.

THE very extraordinary case, and perfect cure of the gout, as related by Mons. l'Abbé Mann, which I published last summer, would, in all probability, have rendered the medicine as universal in his own country as it is abroad, had the Abbé's respectable character and abilities been as well known in England as it is upon the continent. It has, however, (considering the short time since it was made public in England) been seriously attended to by physical men of sense; but more so by sufferers in that painful and miserable disorder; and as I have received a variety of

letters from different parts of the kingdom for further information, and having, *since* the publication of Abbé Mann's case and cure, been favoured with another letter from him on the same subject, I have thought it proper to publish, not only the Abbé's farther information, but to give some account also of the effects the Abbé's medicine has had on other gentlemen of rank, and of the most respectable characters.

Mr. Brooke, an eminent merchant at Exeter, having lent my late publication of a Tour into the Austrian Netherlands to Sir John Duntze, of Exeter, and finding therein an account of Abbé Mann's sufferings and cure of the gout, Sir John honoured me with a letter, from which the following is an extract :

“ IT is impossible to read that most excellent letter of Abbé Mann's, without being charmed with its philanthropy, and being deeply interested in his welfare
“ and

“ and happiness. His case and cure brought
 “ to my immediate recollection, a prescrip-
 “ tion of the late Dr. Fothergill’s, not long
 “ before his death, for myself in the rheu-
 “ matic gout, which has been increasing
 “ upon me for twenty years past. It was
 “ a preparation of hemlock, I believe *pre-*
 “ *cisely the same* as the Abbé Mann’s; or,
 “ perhaps, with a small variation in the
 “ quantity of each pill. I took them regu-
 “ larly for some time; and finding, as I
 “ *then* thought, they did me neither good
 “ nor harm, they were neglected; but I
 “ am now so thoroughly convinced I did
 “ not give them a fair trial, that I have
 “ *more than thoughts* of beginning again.”

The above extract is from a letter dated
 Rockbere-house, November the 10th, 1784;
 since which I have received another letter
 from Sir John, of the 29th of the same
 month; and as it is wholly relative to the
 medicine in question, and its effects, I flat-
 ter myself Sir John Duntze will excuse my
 giving it at full length.

Letter

*Letter from Sir John Duntze, Bart. to
Philip Thickneffe, Esq.*

Rockbere-House, Nov. 29, 1784.

Dear SIR,

I WAS duly honoured with your letter of the 14th instant. In consequence of which I proceeded with alacrity in taking the hemlock pills, and was willing to have it in my power to give you some little account of their effect, before I troubled you with answering it. I am this moment favoured with yours of the 25th, and can no longer refrain from acquainting you, that I have proceeded gradually in taking the pills, and have increased the dose to near 80 grains a day, which I think have already been of great service to me. They are prepared in Exeter, according to M. de Störck's directions in the Dispensatory, and I take the liberty of sending you a couple
of

of the pills enclosed, that you may see them. I can, however, get none of the wolfs-bane. They say here, the use of it has been long exploded. If necessary, I should be happy to be able to procure some from Bruffells. Dr. Milman is a worthy countryman of mine, being born, if I mistake not, at or near Totnes, in this county, and does us all great credit. I have had the pleasure of being in his company more than once, and entertain the highest opinion of his abilities in his profession, and his character as a gentleman. You must recollect, with much satisfaction, the early discovery you made of his merit *. Should he also entertain a favourable opinion of this remedy, I shall think myself already more than half cured, though I can at present neither walk nor stand. The two cases you have done me the favour to mention, give me spirits, and I do not despair this winter of being able to treat myself in

* See A Year's Journey through France and Part of Spain, by Philip Thicknesse, published in 1776.

town with the pleasure you so kindly hold out to my view, of hearing Miss Thicknesse's voice, accompanied with her viol de gamba. Mr. Brooke, who happens to be now with me, begs his respects. He has taken some of the pills, and desires me to tell you, he is determined to persevere. He will do himself the honour to answer your letter soon. My best compliments and wishes attend Mrs. Thicknesse and the young ladies; and I am, with sincere respect and regard,

Dear S I R,

Your most obliged,

and obedient humble Servant,

JOHN DUNTZE.

It is now above a year that I have had three wounds in my legs, which emitted thousands of little chalk stones, about the size of a small pin's head. One of these wounds is already almost healed, since my
 takin-

taking the hemlock, and the other two appear in a very favourable state. I mention this, as it answers exactly to a case related by M. de Störck of the gout stones being dispersed. I met with it in the Annual Register for 1760.

In consequence of such a favourable report from Sir John Duntze, and a certificate under the hand of Mr. Reynolds, a stranger to me, but a gentleman whom I am informed was secretary to the Duke of Northumberland, I waited upon Dr. Milman, whose abilities as a physician it appears I had with just reason pointed out, eight years since,* from what I had heard of his practice at Montpellier, while he was one of Dr. Ratcliffe's travelling physicians; and having shewn the Doctor Abbé Mann's case and cure, with Sir John Duntze's letters to me, and asked his opinion as to the Abbé's cure, and the safety and propriety of other

* See the second vol. of A Journey through France and Part of Spain, by P. Thicknesse, published in 1777.

sufferers using the same medicines ; Dr. Milman informed me, that he had no doubt but that Abbé Mann's cure was effected by the hemlock and wolfs-bane, in the manner he has so accurately represented it ; but that tho' he has never administered *those medicines together* for the cure of the gout ; yet he has frequently given them singly with success in other disorders : And when I told him my intention of laying before the public some further account thereof, he was so obliging as to observe, that in the various cases in which physicians had lately thought proper to give the hemlock, it had been a rule with them to begin with a small dose, and to encrease it gradually, till the medicine produced a slight degree of nausea, or vertigo and giddiness---that these symptoms were generally considered as the criterion of its having been taken in a proper quantity, and as an indication that it was not to be encreased any further ; and that taken *in such a dose*, it was found to produce all the
good

good effects which are to be obtained from the virtues of this plant. And here I ought to inform such readers who are too young to remember it, or who were then too well to take notice of it, that about the year 1760, Dr. ANTHONY STÖRCK, a very eminent physician of Vienna, came to England, and set forth the sovereign power of hemlock in many cases, but particularly in the cure of cancers. But after as violent a struggle for some time, as a most able foreigner could make against a very powerful body of our own faculty, he left this country with a reputation little better than that of a mere *charlatan*.* In his own country however, he still stands in the first rank with able physicians; and as the relief he gave one of his gouty patients, by a fomentation of hemlock only, so exactly coincides with what Abbé Man particularly marks on his approaching cure, I shall give it in the Doctor's own words, with a translation :

* LEWIS in his Dispensatory says, that Dr. Störck was very ill treated by the faculty here.

“ Viro sexagenario, a multis annis dolori-
 “ bus, podagricis divexato, non tantum
 “ simili fomento dolores mox sedavi, sed et
 “ tophos podagricos integere emollivi, &
 “ dispuli. Unde factum est, ut rediens poda-
 “ gra nec amplius adeo violenta, nec diu-
 “ turna fuerit. *i. e.* It not only mitigated
 “ and removed the pains of a gentleman of
 “ the age of fixty, who had been afflicted
 “ for many years with the gout, by a fomen-
 “ tation of this sort, but was so fortunate as
 “ entirely to soften and dispel the gouty
 “ swellings, and matter, which had been
 “ accumulated in the part: from whence it
 “ happened, that the gout, when it returned,
 “ was neither so violent, nor did it continue
 “ so long as it had been wont to do.”

Here too I must observe, that Abbé Mann
 says “ For the first three months that I took
 the hemlock extract, I found no very sensi-
 ble effect, and began to despair of any,
 had not Monsieur Himlebour urged me to
 persevere; and thus it was with Sir John
 Duntze;

Duntze ; he, too, found no alteration for the better or worfe, after taking the pills for a confiderable time, and therefore unfortunately, as he *now fays*, neglected the medicine : but he continues ftill unable to walk, or even to fet his feet to the ground ; but Abbé Mann has been for four years not only able to walk, but to walk four leagues in a morning, without being tired, or feeling the leaft inconvenience, from fuch exercife ; and he is but lately returned from a journey of five hundred leagues, which he made laft fummer with the POPE'S Nuncio, by perfevering as Dr. Himlebaur urged him to do, when he was about abandoning the medicine : he adds, “ In a fhort
 “ time after, my joints feemed in fome mea-
 “ fure to recover their freedom, and I could
 “ walk with greater facility than I had
 “ done for a long time ; the fpafms, and
 “ nervous irritations, began to diminifh very
 “ fenfibly alfo.” Thus encouraged by fuch favorable omens, and the conftant ufe of the medicine, he redoubled his zeal in
 taking

taking the pills ; and before the winter, he took *very large doses*, and found himself to improve in health daily; his digestion became better, the foreness he had for many years suffered under, diminished, and he found he had gained, in some measure, a victory over his disorders.* Can any gouty patient then, after seeing so clear and satisfactory a proof of the efficacy, the safety, and the success of the hemlock pills, doubt that there are not in that medicine virtue sufficient to combat and to defeat the disorder ? Nay, the very length of time which the Abbé took them, without feeling any sensible effect, is strongly, I think, in favour of its efficacy : it is indeed one of the reasons why I do not publish at length, the certificate sent me by Mr. Reynolds, of the very extraordinary benefit he declares he found after taking the hemlock pills only a fortnight ; for he asserts, that for four years his sufferings had been without

* For sixteen years no mortal ever suffered more grievously than Abbé Mann.

intermission,

intermission, and that except finding a little benefit by the Bath waters, the most able of the faculty gave him no relief ; but that the hemlock pills have enabled him to enjoy life, and the use of his limbs.

As Abbé Mann was on his summer tour when I re-published his case in French, with a translation thereof, I thought it right to send him the book, and to apologize for the liberty I had taken without his consent ; and to entreat the favour of him to correct such errors as the transcriber or translator had made in the re-publication of it in England. The Abbé honoured me with the following reply.

Brussels, Sept. 10, 1784.

Dear S I R,

I Received last Sunday (5th inst.) by Governor Ellis, your kind letter, together with the copies of your *Year's Journey*,
and

and of the *Relation of my Gout Case*, which you have favoured me with. I am really obliged to you for so kind a present and remembrance of me, and beg you to accept of my sincere thanks for the same. In the short time I have had them, and amidst a multiplicity of occupations, I have perused them with pleasure: however, I must beg leave to add, that the encomiums which your friendship has induced you to pay to me, are much too great, and far beyond any merit I can pretend to. When I compare myself with what you say of me, I cannot help feeling confusion. Perhaps, my letter of last year may have given occasion thereto; and certainly if I had foreseen it would have appeared in print, it would have been less *Egoical*. Be that as it may, I am obliged to you for your *too good* opinion of me, and shall make it my business to endeavour to merit it better hereafter. Your re-publication of my relation concerning the gout I so long suffered, and the means that have freed me from it, has given me singular pleasure.

pleasure. Although I do not believe that the methods which I have used will produce equally good effects on every gouty constitution, and on every species of gout as they have done on me; yet the peculiar effects of remedies little used cannot be too much divulged, to the end that able physicians may apply them to others in similar cases. My *relation* is a simple and most exact account of a series of real facts known to hundreds, who have been eye-witnesses of the situation I was formerly in, and of that which I am in at present. I have strictly kept myself to a relation of facts, without reasoning thereon; and however others may reason upon them, or judge of them, the facts themselves must and will stand incontestible.

The copy of *my relation*, which Mr. Combes sent you, and from which you have had it re-printed, was most exact. Your impression of it is so likewise; but there is one material omission and alter-

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ation

ation (from what I gave) in the impresson from which Mr. Combes copied it. That and two or three other trifling faults of the press, you will find below under the form of an *errata*.

Now to answer your several queries, and those of Colonel Nash.

1. As to the doses of pills taken, they are exactly specified in page 32 of the French Relation ; I began from the first with four pills of hemlock at a time, and repeated that dose three times in 24 hours, at those times when the stomach was most empty of food ; that is, in the morning fasting, two hours before dinner, &c. I followed the same method when I took to the amount of 100 or 120 grains a-day of hemlock and aconite together, in the proportion of one of aconite to six of hemlock.

2. I cannot venture to say what would be the effect of using them in a different
pro-

proportion from the above, as I have not tried it; but I should make no difficulty of trying it, if need were; with this consideration only, that the wolfs-bane is much more powerful in its effects than hemlock.

3. I do not look upon the camphire mixture (page 33) when corrected as below from the fault of the Liege press, as a powerful medicine in any respect: it is a calmant, or anodyne, and serves to encrease insensible perspiration; and for those ends I commonly took of it a table-spoonful going to bed.

4. As hemlock and wolfs-bane are most powerful dissolvents, a dose of rhubarb or any other tonic purgative from time to time serves to carry off the dissolved humours, and to prevent their accumulating in the *primæ viæ*.

5. The fits of the gravel which I speak of (page 26) are totally different from those

which Dr. Scott supposes to be *bilious humours* passing through the kidneys towards the end of a gouty fit: I am too well acquainted with both, to be able to confound them.

Thus, Sir, I think I have answered all the queries proposed to me, and shall be glad if I have done it to your satisfaction. I hope this will find you, your lady, and family in perfect health: mine, since the fever I had last year (spoken of page 36 of the French Relation) has suffered no alteration. I have lately made a journey of above 500 leagues through France, Switzerland, and Germany. I set off in good health in the beginning of June, and returned in still better the 22d of August. —I should be happy to see Old England once more, and to pay my respects to you there; but I dare not hope for it from any thing which I can foresee in my present circumstances. However, my wishes for your health and happiness shall constantly attend

attend you.—I beg you to make my very respectful compliments agreeable to your lady and family, and believe me to be, with the sincerest regard and esteem,

Dear SIR,

Your most obedient,

And very devoted humble Servant,

TH. AUG. MANN.

ERRATA to the FRENCH RELATION:

Page 26, line 2, after *elles* read *se*—elles se dissiperent avec le temps.

P. 31, l. 4, for *le fin*, read *la fin*.

P. 31, l. 13, for *en* read *eu*—avait eu quelque difficulté.

P. 33, lines 4 and 5, read thus: *Aceti
vin cal. unc. fs.—Acquæ flor. Sambuci
unc.*

*unc. vj.—Syr. papav. rhæad. unc. j.—
misc. ad us.*

P. 35, line 13, for *sans avoir*, read *sans
en avoir*.

Having thus fairly and candidly published Abbé Mann's case and cure, * with the medicines which effected it last summer, with this additional information which I have obtained from him and other respectable sufferers under the same disorder, I cannot be fairly accused with any *quackism*. I have advanced nothing but what I have respectable authority to advance and affirm; and therefore such who determine to try the same means of cure, may see clearly what ground they set out upon, and have a sure and able guide to conduct them on their way. I shall therefore only observe,

* The Case may be had at Debrett's, Bookseller, over against Burlington House; at Fores's, opposite the Haymarket, in Piccadilly; or at the Author's House, No. 32, opposite the Green Park, in Piccadilly.

that

that as Dr. Barrett, under whose care Mr. Reynolds declares he has been so wonderfully relieved from the gout by this medicine, says he has bought up all the aconite in London, I have some of the pills of both sorts by me, which were prepared by Abbé Mann's apothecary, at the service of any gentleman of known character, who will send to my house in his *own name* for them ; and I have wrote to a friend to entreat the favour of him to send me over a larger quantity, prepared in the same manner ; in order to supply Colonel Nash, Sir John Duntze, Mr. Brooke of Exeter, and several other gentlemen who now do, and others who intend soon to try the efficacy of this very extraordinary medicine, and flattering prospect of a perfect cure. Indeed, there is another very material reason why I have been desirous of obtaining the medicine from the same hands that supplied Abbé Mann ; and that is, the Abbé told me when I was last at Brussels, he

he was thoroughly satisfied that the hemlock and *Aconite* of VIENNA, from growing on a dryer and better soil, is infinitely superior in medicinal qualities, than that of Britain : And there is good reason to believe his opinion is well founded ; for some of our ablest modern physicians have even doubted whether the hemlock of the ancients, and the plant which goes by that name with us, is really the same plant. Perhaps their doubts arose because they did not find by the administration of it, the same powerful effects. But is it not natural to conclude, that the same plant, warmed by a hotter sun, or growing in a more favourable soil, may be very much altered as to its efficacy ? I make no doubt but the nutmeg and pepper-tree may produce fruit in this climate ; but I very much doubt whether either would possess the same aromatic qualities. But we are certain that the *CICUTA*, so much celebrated by the ancients, was the inspissated juice of a species

species of this plant, called *oenant'he acquitca cicutæ facie*.*

Captain Crookshanks, of Green-Street, May Fair, having an old servant in a fit of

* There is good reason to prefer the hemlock and aconite of Vienna, or of Germany, to the growth of our own soil; because it is among the Germans that *both plants* are in such high repute: Besides, Tournefort enumerates 21 species of *aconite*. The ancients used this plant against the sting of the scorpion, the touch of which deadened the pain, and the helebore restored the wounded part to its wonted vigor. The Indians also use *aconite* in cow's urine, to remove fevers: the flower of this plant resembles a man's head with a *helmet on it*. The reason that the *cicuta* and *aconite* have not been so much used till lately by us, was from the idea of its being employed by the ancients as a poison; but it is universally agreed, that what they used under the name of *cicuta*, is a secret scarce possible now to be discovered. Sir John Duntze however, now takes eighty grains in a day. I too have given it to my daughter, to remove a swelling on her side, with success. Captain Crookshanks' servant, and two or three other persons of my acquaintance, who have taken it, all agree, that they feel no inconvenience or perceptible effect from it, but that of mitigating their sufferings, or removing their disorder.

D

the

the gout, applied to me for some of the Abbé Mann's pills, for him. He took them during the fit, and is still taking them, and will inform any gentleman with the good effects he thinks they produced : the fit, he says, left him sooner than any former, and he finds a pliability of his limbs, such as he had never before experienced, so soon after the disorder had left him.

LEWIS, in his new Dispensatory says (speaking of hemlock) “ With regard to its virtue
 “ when taken internally, it has generally
 “ been accounted poisonous, if used in any
 “ considerable quantity ; but Dr. Störck
 “ has lately found, that in certain doses it
 “ may be taken with great safety, and that
 “ without at all disordering the constitution,
 “ or even producing any sensible operation.
 “ It sometimes proves a powerful *resolvent*
 “ in many OBSTINATE *disorders*.” Where
 then is the danger of taking it? are not
 calomel, opium, antimony, and many other
 medicines

medicines poisonous ? yet are they not in daily and common use ?

Since the above sheets have been printed off, I have been honoured with two letters, one from Sir John Duntze, the other from Abbé Mann, from which the following extracts are taken.

Extract of a Letter from Sir John Duntze, dated Rockbere House, Dec. 23^d, 1784.

“ Dear S I R,

“ I am honoured with your letter, and last night I received the two boxes of pills, for which I return you many thanks. I hope what are made here are the right sort, otherwise it will be very unfortunate, for I now take upwards of 120 grains a-day; so

D 2

that

that what you have been so kind to send me, will be soon done. The *wolfs-bane* cannot be procured here, and I should be happy if it were possible to have any in London before the Bruffels pills arrive, as I have great faith in the efficacy of this medicine, and think as highly of their virtue as you do. I have just received a letter from a friend of mine in Exeter, which does not tend to lessen this good opinion ; the following is an extract.

“ I dined yesterday with Mr. —— ;
 “ when I entered his house, he was reading
 “ Abbé Mann’s case : you will conclude I
 “ soon introduced your’s, and told him that
 “ I had seen the wounds in your legs twice ;
 “ the last time at the distance of twelve
 “ days from the first, and that they appeared
 “ to me to be healing fast, notwithstanding
 “ dressings were applied to keep the
 “ wounds open : he replied, the blood was
 “ corrected, and as it improved, and the
 “ gouty matter (which is the cause of the
 “ wounds

“ wounds and pain) is dispersed, they will
“ heal in spite of all you can do, and you
“ will be restored to health. He says the
“ wolfs-bane is the most powerful, and will
“ probably have the greater effect upon
“ your disorder: he likewise adds, that he
“ thinks perspiration would greatly facilitate
“ your cure.”

“ I am not at liberty to mention the name
of this gentleman: but you will guess that
we have some persons here of eminence,
who are disposed to think favourably of the
Abbé's remedy.”

*Extract of a Letter from Abbé Mann,
dated Brussels, the 23d of Dec. 1784.*

“ Dear S I R,

“ I ought to have answered much sooner
your kind letter; but an uninterrupted series
of occupations has prevented me, and must
be

be my excuse for the long delay. On the other hand, neither Mr. Combes nor myself have hitherto met with any occasion of sending you the hemlock and wolfs-bane pills which you desire to have. To commit so small a parcel to the public *voitures* from hence to London, is to expose it to certain danger of being lost ; or if it should get safe to you, the carriage must greatly enhance the price. We must therefore still wait for some one going over to London, who will take charge of it.

“ As the helebore of Anticyra had virtues which are not found in that of our northern growth ; and as the medicinal and aromatic plants growing in hot countries have much more powerful qualities than the same plants in cold climates ; so I have always been informed that the hemlock and wolfs-bane, growing on the barren, mineralic soil of Austria, has greater virtues than that growing on the rich luxuriant soil of the Low Countries. The inspissated juices from
Vienna

Vienna are so replenished with salts, that they have sometimes the appearance of an imperfect chryſtalization ; whereas no ſuch thing is ever ſeen in thoſe extracted with the plants growing here.”

Before I conclude, it may be neceſſary to obſerve, that the danger of hemlock, helebore, wolfs-bane, &c. for they are all near-a-kin, have been dreaded by a multitude of practitioners, as well as patients, from the idea of their being deadly poiſon. SOCRATES was put to death by a doſe of helebore—*who therefore will ſwallow ſuch poiſon?* but how many have been put to death, or have put themſelves to death by *opium* ? yet the great SYDENHAM ſays, that “ *opium* is “ the moſt excellent cordial in NATURE. BALLONIAS ſays the Turks are long lived, and yet they take opium in great quantities: ſome take, ſays Dr. Smyth, fix drams a-day. The Counteſs of Deſmond, who lived

lived to the age of 140, drank helebore wine. But to remove all fears on this alarming subject, I have Dr. Milman's authority (and he is an excellent botanist, as well as an able physician) to say, that the helebore of ANTICYRA, which the ancients used, is NOT the same plant we call by that name ; for though it may be kindred to it, it differs greatly both in leaf, flower, and seeds, from the helebore of these northern climates. Sir John Duntze, a gentleman much enfeebled by long sufferings, takes an hundred and twenty grains in twenty-four hours, without feeling any inconvenience, and with many strong and favourable symptoms which indicate a perfect cure.

T H E

*The Extract of a Letter from Sir John Duntze
to the Author, dated January the 17th, 1785.*

“ I perceive already some benefit resulting from the medicine ; and my friends say that the appearance of health is returning in my countenance ; I should therefore on every account wish to persevere in the continuance of the medicine to its fullest extent for a length of time, according to the directions given. I am such a cormorant of these pills, that I now devour eighty or ninety a-day ; and am not yet arrived at *my ne plus ultra*. The two boxes contain 354 ; 43 wolfs-bane *, and 311 hemlock pills ; so that you see they will not last me five days ; and as these are the true genuine sort, I ardently wish some method could be contrived for a plentiful and sufficient supply, particularly of the wolfs-bane, which is not to be had here.” †

* This is much the most efficacious Medicine of the two.

† The wolfs-bane is not to be had in our shops, much depends on the due preparation of both.

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By **PHILIP THICKNESSE,**

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